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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/530,563	04/07/2005	Takao Hasegawa	040894-7216	8997
9629 7590 08/30/2007 MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP 1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004			EXAMINER REYNOLDS, STEVEN ALAN	
			ART UNIT 3728	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/30/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/530,563	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HASEGAWA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Steven Reynolds	<b>Art Unit</b> 3728	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12 and 14-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12 and 14-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/21/2007 has been entered.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 10-12 and 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear whether the "second opening" in claim 18 is the same as the "opening" in claim 10.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

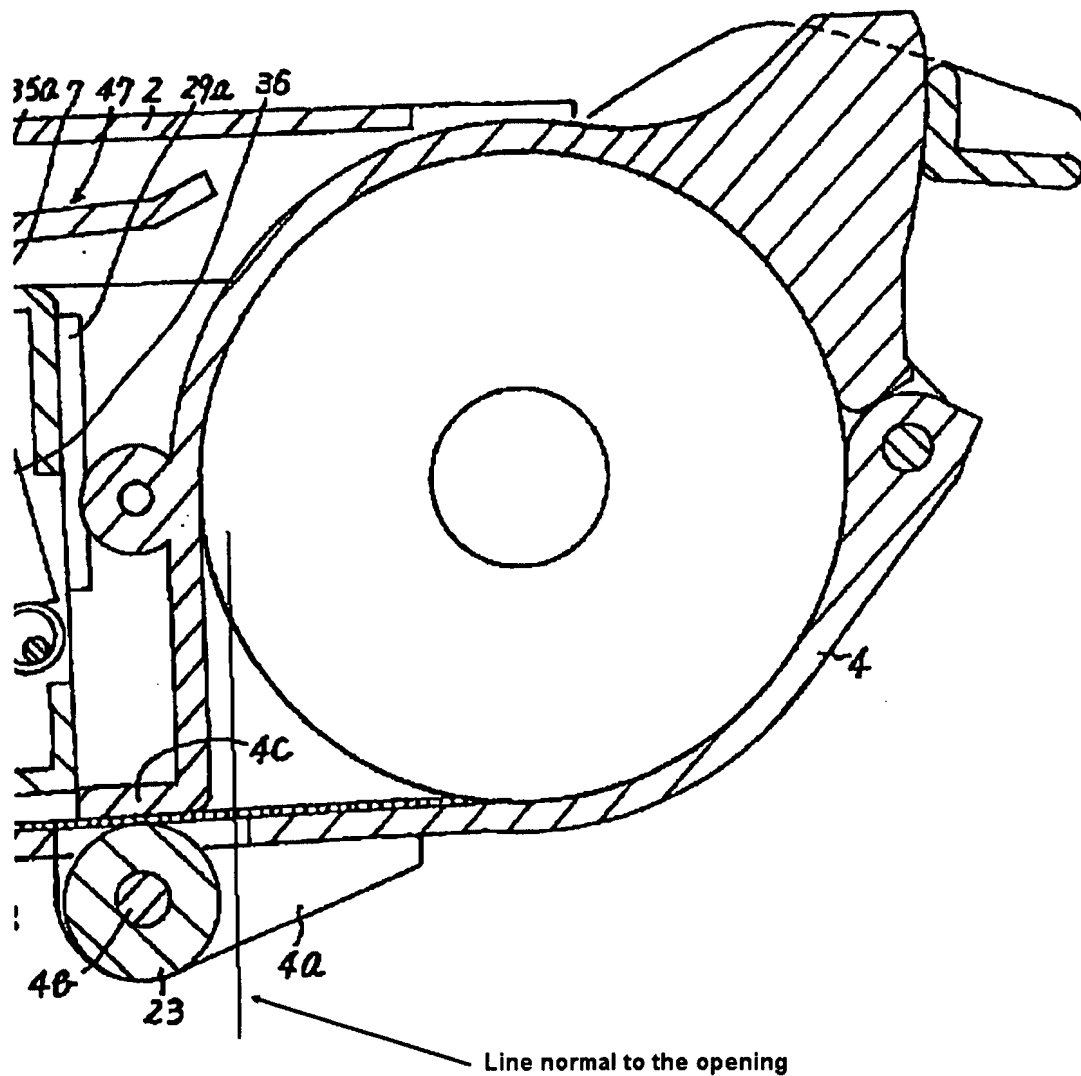
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

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applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 10-12 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mochizuki (US 6,568,579). Mochizuki discloses a staple case (cartridge 4) that contains a roll staple formed by connecting unformed staples in a roll shape comprising an opening (opening in lower portion of cartridge 4 wherein roller 23 is positioned – See Fig. 4 embodiment and Figure below), formed at a part of the staple case approximately normal to a circumferential surface of the roll staple, through which a member (roller 23) for rotating the roll staple is brought into contact with the roll staple (See column 5, lines 21-26).

Examiner interprets the limitations in claim 10 as the opening being normal to a circumferential surface of the roll staple; this can be shown by a normal line drawn through the opening, which touches a portion of the circumferential surface of the roll staple (this can be seen in the portion of Figure 4 shown below).

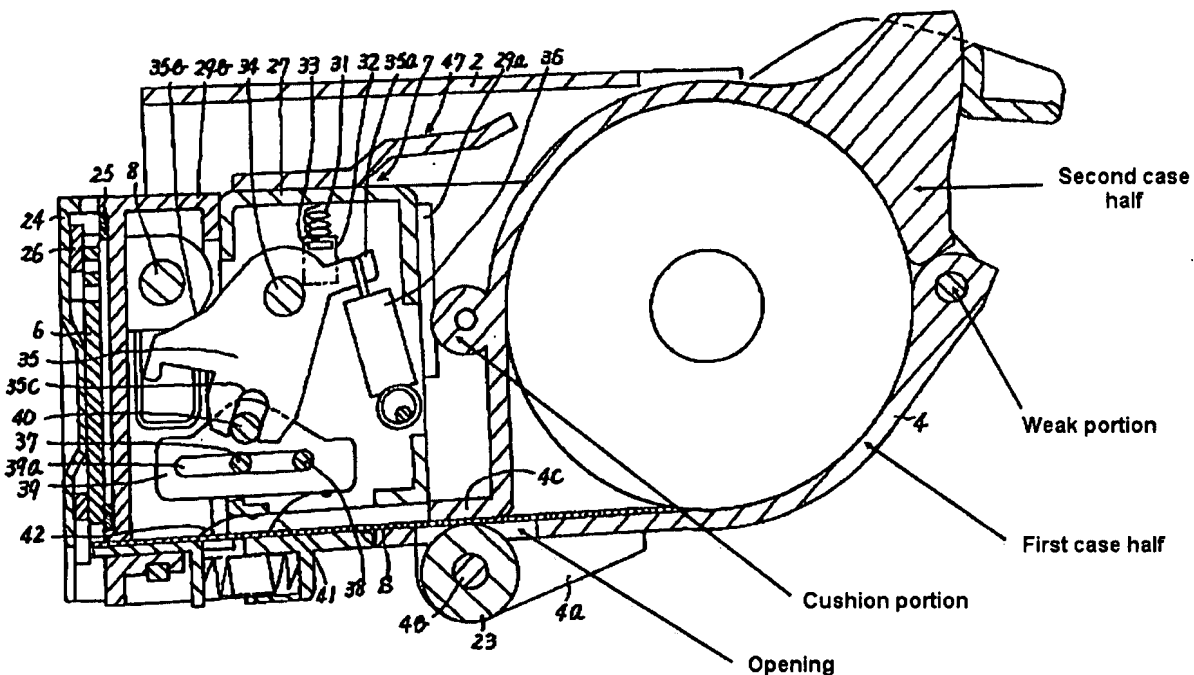


Mochizuki further discloses a pull-out opening (opening wherein staples S pass beneath plate 4 – See Fig. 4 embodiment) through which the roll staple is pulled out; a cushion portion (See figure below); a portion for positioning in a containing chamber (45 slides into 43 to position the cartridge into the containing chamber 2); a guide portion for guiding the staple case to a containing chamber (46 slides into 44 to guide the cartridge into the containing chamber 2); a first case half and a second case half (See Figure

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below); a first opening (opening wherein staples S pass beneath plate 4 – See Fig. 4 embodiment) through which the roll staple is pulled out; and a second opening (opening in lower portion of cartridge 4 wherein roller 23 is positioned – See Fig. 4 embodiment and Figure below) through which a member for rotating the roll staple is brought into contact with the roll staple, wherein the first opening is provided on the second case half, and the second opening is provided on the first case half (See Figure below); and a weak portion (hinge – See Figure below) on a joint between the first case half and the second case half.

Regarding claim 12, since no reference point for the orientation of the case is claimed, the case of Mochizuki can be oriented in a position where the pull-out opening is at a vertical center of a front face.

*Fig. 4*

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki (US 6,568,579) in view of Haramiishi (US 7,048,165). Mochizuki discloses an upper/front face (Second case half – See Figure above) and a bottom/back face (First case half – See Figure above) having a different shape to the upper face. Mochizuki discloses all the limitations of the claims except for the specifics of the markings on the staple case.

However, Haramiishi teaches a cartridge casing (24) comprising an arrow on the side face of the case for the purpose of indicating the direction in which the case is inserted into the stapler (See Fig. 7 embodiment). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have

modified the staple case of Mochizuki with the arrow marking on the side face as taught by Haramiishi in order to show the user the correct direction in which the staple case is to be inserted into the stapler.

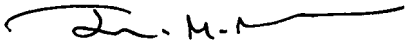
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Reynolds whose telephone number is (571) 272-9959. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571)272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SR  
8/28/07

  
JILA M. MOHANDESI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER